

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. The Examiner has allowed claims 12-20. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended claims 1, 2, 3, 6, 10 and 11. Applicant also amended the written specification to further describe features of the multiplex receptacle that are shown in the Figures and otherwise described throughout the application. Applicant respectfully submits no new matter was added by these amendments, and that such amendments are fully supported by the application as originally filed. Accordingly, claims 1-20 are at issue.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 5-6 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by King. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. In this regard, Applicant incorporates the arguments previously submitted in Applicant's Response to the Office Action of April 28, 2004, and offers the following additional observations:

Claim 1, as amended herein, defines a multiplex electrical outlet receptacle having tabs configured for mounting the receptacle in an in-wall electrical box. Unlike prior in-wall electrical receptacles, the receptacle of claim 1 includes at least four non-removable electrical receptacle outlets wherein at least the first receptacle is configured to receive the first and second blades of a plug - such as for example, a conventional plug connected to an appliance, and a single electrical cable connection for providing a power supply to each of the four outlets. That is, each outlet or duplex of the receptacle does not have to be separately wired to the power supply. This combination of elements is not shown or suggested by King.

In contrast to the receptacle of claim 1, King is directed to a "modular" receptacle. In particular, the device of King includes "a base unit 14" and "a removable electrical device 12." The removable electrical device includes "contacts" (shown as prongs 24 and 26 in Figure 1 of King) which mate with "through holes" (shown as holes 40) in the base unit. The contacts and

through holes allows the electrical devices to be attached to and easily removed from the base unit. The removable electrical device (in the form of a “GFCI receptacle 100”) must be attached to the base unit to allow a standard plug to utilize the system shown in King.

Figure 9 of King discloses an embodiment of the base unit that can accommodate three separate removable electrical devices. Specifically, looking at the arrangement of through holes in Figure 9, the base unit shown can accommodate a GFCI receptacle in the right most sub-container (compare through holes on the right most sub-container of Figure 9 with those shown in Figures 1 and 2 of King), and a switch in the center and left-most sub-containers (compare through holes of center and left-most sub-container of Figure 9 with those shown in Figure 3 of King). Again, each of the electrical devices (receptacle or switch) can be attached to and easily removed from the base unit shown in Figure 9.

The through holes of the base unit of King are not configured to accept a conventional two or three prong blade plug. Instead a separate removable electrical device is required to accept such plugs.

The present invention is not directed to a modular system as that shown in King. Instead, the receptacle of the claim 1 is intended for use in construction to allow for low cost installation of in-wall mounted receptacle outlets. The unitary design and single connection to a power supply allow for fast and easy installation. In contrast, the modular design of King adds cost to the overall system and increases labor in making the components as well as in installing the devices in a house or other similar structure.

Because King does not disclose each of the limitations of claim 1, it cannot anticipate this claim. See *RCA Corp. v. Applied Digital Data Systems, Inc.*, 730 F.2d 1440, 1444, 221 USPQ 385, 388 (Fed. Cir. 1984) (Anticipation is established only when a single prior art reference

discloses each and every element of a claimed invention.). Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits claim 1 is patentable over King.

Claims 2-3, 5-6 and 8 depend on claim 1, either directly or indirectly, and include each of its limitations. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits claims 2-3, 5-6 and 8 are also patentable over King.

The Examiner has rejected claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over King as applied to claims 1-3 and further in view of case law. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits claim 1 is patentable over King. Claim 4 indirectly depends on claim 1, and includes each of its limitations. The case law does not cure the deficiencies of King with respect to claim 1. Accordingly, for the reasons given above, Applicant respectfully submits claim 4 is patentable over King in view of the case law.

The Examiner has rejected claims 7 and 9-10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over King as applied to claims 1 and 5-6 and further in view of Lee. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits claim 1 is patentable over King. Claims 7 and 9-10 depend on claim 1, either directly or indirectly, and include each of its limitations. Lee does not cure the deficiencies of King with respect to claim 1. Accordingly, for the reasons given above, Applicant respectfully submits claims 7 and 9-10 are patentable over King in view of Lee.

The Examiner has rejected claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over King in view of Lee as applied to claim 10 and further in view of Bagga. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits claim 1 is patentable over King.

Claim 11 indirectly depends on claim 1, and includes each of its limitations. Neither Lee nor Bagga cures the deficiencies of King with respect to claim 1. Accordingly, for the reasons given above, Applicant respectfully submits claim 11 is patentable over King in view of Lee and Bagga.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing Amendments and Remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-11. The Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned if there are any questions concerning this Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is, on the date shown below, being deposited with the United States Postal Service, with first class postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP RCE, Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on May 18, 2005.

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